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L. A.  
LOPEZ

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CHANGE THE  
ATMOSPHERE,  
CONFESS  
CHRIST

A 30 Day Devotional To Augment  
Your Study of the Word of God

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# Foreword

Dear Saints,

Greetings, May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be upon you; may His truth shine on your path as His word be lamp unto our feet for His tender mercies never cease; as they are renewed each morning.

I would like to begin by remembering the first moment I started writing a message at the beginning of my ministry here in the Philippines. I remember the joy of seeing the fluidity of God's thought come alive as I readied myself for the launching of Abundant Harvest Fellowship International; the first church I officially planted with my family as we desired to plant a church that would stand as a sanctuary to the saints; a place of refuge to those wearied by this world and a safe haven for believers to grow in the Lord, live a life of purity as we worship the King in Spirit and in truth. I still remember being torn, I have served years past as a Youth Pastor for several churches as God has always guided my hand and willed each work I endeavored to grow; during these years I have learned to speak the word of God soundly yet lacking the personal touch that my mother was striving to instill in me a couple of nights prior to the launch we had on October 10, 2010. Stubbornly, I decided to go to my comfort zone, thus I began preparing the message the way I always had but as I typed away; the Holy Spirit impressed upon me a simple truth- that no matter how wonderful my teaching could be; if I could not win the heart of the people; it has been for nought. I asked God for wisdom and discernment as I strived to write my message the way my mother had been encouraging me to do so; to open my heart to the people who will for the first time come to my church. To share my life with them, my experiences, my walk with God and how He turned each sorrowful story into overwhelming joyous victory. As I wrote, the words just kept on coming until I saw that I already finished the message; rather God already finished it through me. I shared the message God impressed upon me that Sunday and God moved and used it to impact so many, thus I've

been teaching, preaching the word of God that way ever since. In this small book that God has impressed me to share with you; I have compiled a few of my teachings that I pray would be a blessing to you as I pray it stand to recalibrate your Christianity as we seek Christ in our walk. My desire is that this book would augment your quiet time and help lead you to a fruitful life in Christ Jesus. This devotional was created not to replace the Bible, nor should you think that reading one day of this book should suffice your spiritual needs. Friend, we all need meat- we need the Bible to fill us and nourish us. Think of this book as a once a day tablet that upon be taken with your actual meal would augment the nutrients synthesized to build up your immune system, and keep you healthy. This devotional was created to share with you some insights that God has impressed upon me as you read the ever living word of the Most High God.

This devotional book is designed as an In-depth reader if you will, with hard spiritual truths to mull over and I pray that each day may stand as a challenge for us to check ourselves, humble our hearts, commit to change and ask God for the strength to follow through the recalibration of our Christianity. At the end of the 30 days, my prayer is that you would have applied the truths you've learned each day simultaneously as we strive to become the people God called us to be, not by might nor power but by His Holy Spirit.

A final note to you dear Saint as you begin your journey with me;

Be intentional and focus on God!

Sincerely,

Pastor L.A. Lopez

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# Dedication

*I'd like to dedicate this work to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for apart from Him- none of this could be possible. To my Loving Mother, mentor, and best friend- Idonnah Villarico, for guiding me, loving me and caring for me. To my Dear Cool Father; Rommel Villarico; thank you for being an inspiration. To my Dearest Brother- Winchaell Villarico whose love and support is a gift that I am so grateful for, To My Grandma- Zaida McClain whose faith is an inspiration, to my Uncle Gene McClain who shared with me the importance of reading good books and to all who stood by me in the faith, who supported me in my ministry and who stand for the truth of Christ no matter what. God bless you!*



# Change the Atmosphere, Confess Christ

When we speak of the Atmosphere, we don't speak of gases or altitudes; but we speak of climate or moods; we speak of a pervading spirit, an influence in a place, in a group of people or in a person. I remember one such instance that challenged me to change the atmosphere and confess Christ regardless of what I felt. My mother and I just arrived as Los Angeles after a lengthy 18 hour flight from Osaka, Japan. We passed through immigration and proceeded to get our luggage. The luggage was moving around a conveyor carousel, as I was waiting for our luggage to show up; an old woman was trying to obtain her bags when her luggage suddenly burst wide open. I immediately ran to help her. I gathered all my strength lifted her bag as I placed it in a cart bellow. Panting, I was hoping to hear her say- "thank you son." Instead I was berated for helping her, she was furious at me, raising her voice in a language I was unfamiliar to. In all reality, I could have acted unbecoming, gave her a piece of my mind. Instead I smiled, said I was sorry and walked away. At that moment I stood as a living stone in God's temple since I was able to help out, and not react after being berated. I was not able to stand up on my own; I was able to confess Christ and change the atmosphere by the power of the Holy Spirit. Question is: How can we be assured the the Holy Spirit permeates our lives continuously? The answer is to abide in the presence of God, swim in His word and take a stand against sin in our walk. Friends, we are living stones; we are planted in the house of the Lord yet at times we act not as living but stagnant, lethargic even dead stones. We are a spoon fed generation, everything is given to us at a click of a button yet we dismiss this blessing, we set aside this gift because no matter what we hear, what we read, what we sing, what we pray- it has been for nothing since we cherished sin in our heart, we go soft on our faith. In

**Hebrews 10:22** it states- *“let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”* The first step to confessing Christ in our daily walk is to reject sin & fill your mouth, your thoughts and all that you are with the word of God. Drawing near to God means to humble ourselves, as we seek to have a heart that is pure and holy, filled by His love and power. It would have been easy to fall into a reaction in the experience I shared earlier; but because of the love that encompassed me at that moment; I was able to pay no heed to the payment I received for helping- instead I was able to exit properly, take joy in knowing that I did the right thing and continue on my path. We are then called to sprinkle clean our guilty conscience and wash our bodies with pure water; the picture here is the blood of Christ sprinkled to cleanse us from sin; the filth replaced with holiness.

**Verse 23 & 24** then states: *“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,”*

Holding fast to the profession of our faith means that we should stand intentional in desiring to grow and develop on our own as we seek His face. Not awaiting anyone to move you but to stand and help yourself up; build yourself- how? By reading God’s word, by living it, by reading God focused works, by coming to service on time and filled with joy and excitement. By standing teachable, by standing accountable. Then we are called to stimulate the brethren, some translations state- provoke one another to love and good work. **Verse 25** then states: *“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”* We are called to stand by each other, strengthen each other, bless one another with our presence, our love, our words and prayers. In times of peace, we should do this; in times when we have difference among each other; all the more should we do this. By standing by these steps and doing them intentionally, we would stand to confess Christ in our walk; in which we have the ability to change the atmosphere from the darkness of the enemy to the light of God. Standing to change the atmosphere requires rigorous intentionality. A true desire to let go of our passive Christian walk and radically proclaim His goodness through our life song. I believe that it is time we stop wasting our lives on the trivial pursuits this world has to offer; instead bask in His word and live a life that

confesses Christ in all and everything. What we should strive for is to live a life that communicates the redemptive power of Jesus Christ.

Friend, the tough truth is that - we cannot expect a change in our hearts by simply reading, simply attending, No! Change begins with our intentionality to change. In that change, we become the change as we stand to shift the climate of things wherever we go; we influence the spirit of a place; of our homes, our schools, our workplaces, our church by having a countenance that praises our King not just by simply saying: Amen, praise God, Glory to God as a period to each statement we utter. But by living a life of purity, intentionally standing for holiness and confessing Christ in all we do.

My prayer dear friend is that, we may exude a spirit of constancy. Shining Christ, focusing on our King and bearing much fruit in season and out of season; the way our King intended us to be. Not producing half hearted, Spoon-fed, quickly swaying, weak believers but true Christians who are grounded in the truth of Jesus Christ, Intentional in their faith, willingly purifying themselves, standing for sanctification as we stand as new creations to make ready the people for the coming of our King In Jesus name amen!



# What Moves You To God's Throne

What drives us to come to church, what motivates us to draw near to God; Why do we strive to be in His presence? This is one of the most important question we ought to be asking ourselves since it is imperative to check motives. Are we in church due to a sense of belonging, or maybe because it is a hotspot to build relationships which could be cultivated to business connections? Maybe it is to look holy, righteous and good in the sight of others , or maybe we come to church with ulterior motives than the one entrusted to us. Looking back, I came to church on a Sunday because my aunt promised a slice of pizza right after. Yes I would sing the songs, pray; pay attention to the preaching; even write down notes but as the response song came in and the choir began to crescendo; my belly started to crescendo as well for the pizza that was promised. I was physically present, I came to church though sadly not for God but for what I would get right after.

That memory resounded to me as I started youth pastoring in a small church in Florida; I didn't want the youths to come to church and treat it the same way I treated it once. I wanted them to understand the importance of Sunday Service. To swim in God's word, bask in His presence and come to the throne of our King not because of what they can get right after but purely for the joy of being in His presence. Nothing else could suffice the deep hunger in our soul than the life giving, all sustaining presence of the King of Kings.

Man has fallen into the idealism that coming to church, seeking God ensures blessing to overflow; making God a genie or an ATM machine; a servant to our wishes instead of viewing Him as the almighty God while some shine service to the King of Kings only to make a quick buck, using God's name to satisfy their appetite for

material and carnal obsessions. Our prayer is that we stand against such petty idealism, seeking not the hand of God but His face; seeking to please Him not to ensure blessings to come our way but to be satisfied in His delight.

**Malachi 3:16-** *“Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name.”*

We see in this verse the separation of those who revered God’s name and those who chose the path of wickedness, the path of the world. This is the time to draw the line, God does not need our half hearted service; nor does He need a multitude of professing christians; God does not desire quantity like many churches would want us to believe; He does not want takers who can’t reciprocate faith, who can’t shine love. What God desires is quality among believers; He desires to see people who use their mouths to praise and worship His holy name, who delight in giving and stand grateful for His constant mercies, He desires those who despite of trials will cleave to Him and in the hour of Victory will glorify Him. For the endpoint of their worship, of their presence in church, the endpoint of their prayers is not to satisfy their wants or state what they lack, but their worship is a thanksgiving to God. The faithful of Malachi 3:16 had 3 resounding characteristics that made them set apart, righteous men and women who shined God’s light and followed His commandments even amidst a perverse generation.

### **Characteristics We Should Emulate:**

**The 1st Characteristic;** they feared the Lord. They had that reverence for God alone that caused them to depart from evil, and to keep His ordinances.

**The 2nd Characteristic;** They spoke often to one another. They kept up the communion of saints, not forsaking the assembly but by mutual exhortation they strengthened each other's hands in the Lord.

**The 3rd Characteristic;** They thought on His name. His name was sacred to them; it was a fruitful source of profound and edifying meditation. The name of God is God himself in the plenitude of his power, omniscience, justice, goodness, mercy, and truth.

By emulating these characteristics, we are strengthened to stand faithful to God regardless of we may face in this world and the corruption that would render those not grounded in His word to fall. May it be that the motivation we have for coming to the throne of God is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever which must be our chief end in all things.

Friend, my heart is moved to share with you the importance of thinking differently and changing our mindset, as we set our motivation straight. It is time to make an appointment with ourselves each day; and ask God if we have lost the right motivation in seeking Him. Once we realize that we have been led astray by our thoughts and actions, it is time to recalibrate our Christianity and place God's glory as the focal point of our existence that we may experience true joy in our lives.



# Make Your Path Straight

Andre Gide once stated: *“A straight path never leads anywhere except to the objective.”* Thus if the straight path leads to the objective, the destination set for the journey; what does a bending, bulging, turning, crooked path lead to? *Proverbs 10:9* states - *“People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall.”* In the verse, there are 2 types of people that *Proverbs 10:9*; the people marked by integrity, those who suffer for what is right despite of the consequences it might entail, and the people who keep their paths crooked, taking the easy way; the short cuts instead of the straight long path set by God for us to tread. God is seeking those whose path stand straight, who walk in integrity with honesty in their lips; for the Lord sets forth a plumb line to determine who is for Him, who abides in His word, Who hears and Keeps it; and who disobeys it. *Amos 7:7-8* states - *“Thus He showed me, and behold, the Lord was standing by a vertical wall with a plumb line in His hand. The Lord said to me, What do you see, Amos? & I said, A plumb line. Then the Lord said, Behold I am about to put a plumb line in the midst of My people Israel. I will spare them no longer.”* God has set Israel as a wall built beautiful and straight, He has strengthened and fortified it as a defense to His sanctuary yet years of complacency have left the wall weak, crooked and bulging; In the verse we see the Lord standing upon this wall. He measures it with a plumb line which is a tool that consisted of a string with a weighted point. The plumb line tells a builder if the wall being built is vertical & straight; it forewarns a mason if the wall being built is not level or true. Now if a builder continues building regardless of the faults shown by the plumb line; the builder is wicked and untrue but a wise and righteous builder will stand intentional to build a wall that is straight & will not stop up until it stand perfectly level; that is the kind of builder God is in our lives; He measures us like a wall- and if we

are not true and upright; He shatters and rebuilds us to be the best we can be by His goodness & mercy. Upon measuring; Israel was found to be out of plumb and in danger of collapsing; they have rejected God's word; thus the time has come, when those who have been spared often, shall be spared no longer from His judgment.

Our generation is the type and shadow of Israel in the time of Amos, we have lost all passion for God; basked in complacency; we have squandered the grace of God and forgotten the command set forth by our King as found in **John 8:11**; "*Sin no more.*" In **Amos 8:4-6**- The rich and powerful of the land were the most guilty of oppression, as well as the foremost in idolatry. They were weary of the restraints of the sabbaths and wished that it was done with because no work could be done. This is the character of many profess to be Christians. The day set apart for the Lord and the work that comes with it are a burden to carnal hearts. It will either be profaned or be called a dull day. People who thin such as this are strangers to God and the ultimate enemy to themselves. The danger is falling in love to market days than to love, and rejoice in the sabbath days. These are the people who would rather be selling their wares, cheating, bribing & making cash than worshipping God. God requires the whole heart, & will not share it with the world. To follow the world and its ways will lead us to failure but to seek the Lord, standing in integrity will move us upright. In order to pass the plumb line that God has set forth, we need to come to the understanding of our faults, of the mistakes we have made and the complacency that has stolen our focus from the King; harken to His truth and intentionally make our path straight, walking in His light by focusing on Christ alone.

Friend, I implore you today to Acknowledge God in all you do. This means to be intentional in seeking His face, living a life of purity and holiness; it means that righteousness is what we exude; For the crookedness of this world shall not avail us to our destination; but working our salvation with much fear and trembling, as we tread into the realm of sanctification with complete humility to own up to faults will. May we stand to offer up our life as a living testimony of God's righteousness, truth & light; In Jesus Name Amen!



# THE VOICE OF TRUTH

What comes to mind when we hear the term: Truth? The term truth is the antithesis of deceit or falsity, and though many rationalizes that truth is subjective; I would state that the truth of God is relative and is universal. It applies to all, to what we do and who we are. In the world today, the society we are part off feeds us lies. Deceit became its own language as falsity is manifested from the simple lie to the most devious of plots. Multimedia thrives on lies, creating for us a world of materialism and a world focused on tearing down the righteous, upholding what is evil and promoting what is ungodly. We have been trained in this day & age to hide what is true, uphold what is false and consider moral values laughable. Truth is, we stand knee deep in lies; yet God in all His goodness did not leave us in this world's darkness; He sent His truth which is Christ Jesus; gave us His word and constantly enlightens us with the Holy Spirit that we may see beyond the falsities and ascertain the truth. The world deceives us by stating that we cannot stand after a fall, that after our failures; there is no sense of success. The world thrives on these idealisms, telling us to submit to immorality and corruption in order to succeed but God says different, God says maintain your purity, live with a focus on Me, meditate on My word and follow me for truth will lead us to fruition, honesty to breakthrough and verity to a full life.

**2 John 8-9-** *“Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son”*

Scripture states not to be led to error, or lose what you have worked for but to “hold the line,” do not waver nor go ahead but stay in the boundaries of truth; do not move by our own imagination or idealism but connect ourselves to sound christian doctrine. To cleave to Christian truth and abide in Christ. Don't not let the world steer your life down the path of desperation but ask for the power of the Holy Spirit that we may be led into the path of a full life as we continue on the road to sanctification.

The world has packaged success as the attainment of all wants, all needs and all desires. It depicts a person reaching each ambition, each dream with renewed vigor and hope. Yet, most of the time the world never wants to shed light on how the success was attained, what sacrifices did one person make along the way and what did that person loose in order to reach his or her goal. Sadly, we live in a world where morality and truth are the foremost things we sacrifice in order to attain what we seek; yet if we do sacrifice purity- can our success still be called true?

A year back, The Armor Bearers- the official youth ministry of my home church hosted a retreat to impact the youths before the beginning of the school year. In those three days of constantly worshipping God, focusing on His word and preaching His goodness and supremacy as we strengthened believers to continue through the path of sanctification; I saw with my own eyes the great wonders of God's truth. The world has always told me that success meant fame, money, acclaim, excess and material gain. For years I fallen into the trap of vain glory, fallen into pride and greed but you see in those years God kept His eyes on me, readily awaiting me to come to Him. My Humiliation brought me broken to Him and as the years went by, I was shattered and broken still as I waited for my restoration to return. I always asked what it meant to be restored? Was it going to be the story where everything I lost came back, where all the hopes and dreams that froze in the time I left them would come to fruition, or is restoration an opening of ones heart to the understanding of God's magnificence in our life? Friends, I would like to share with you that yesterday I was asked by television reporter if there was any desire from me to return to showbiz, to leave this life God purposed me to live and I with my heart grounded on our King said: No, I am happy where I am, I am blessed by my calling. God has given me a new song to sing; as He prepared me

for His purpose and called me to His throne. I said; that the past had no sting for my God is my redeemer and only His approval do I seek. I answered this way for at that moment I knew that I was already restored, God has turned my shame into joy, my mourning into dancing as I understood the purpose of my existence, to continue in the truth of the Lord, to debunk the falsity of the world through the gospel and share the ministry of reconciliation to all who are willing, to all who desire to be free from the shackles of this world

True Success is finding the truth, not blinded by lies of this world but enlighten by the truth of God; real success is the understanding that what you do has eternal value, not just temporal significance for by each breath we have, God uses it to strengthen, edify and encourage. Having the Lord in our lives is far more greater than all the riches this world could give, all the fame it offers; for our King is our reward and His truth is the crown we wear as we seek to serve Him all of our days as we live a life of renewal, transformed by His grace to shine holiness, purity and goodness to all.

Friend, I implore you to hold the line; do not be weakened or moved by the lies of the world but seek the truth which is Christ Jesus, meditate on His word and seek His face. Guard our hearts, abide in the Lord that He may abide in our hearts. Close your mind to the mockery that states our weakness and the temptation of returning back to our old ways but hear only the Voice of Christ, the Voice of truth in which we thrive, in which we are empowered, in which we find peace, hope and joy.



# I Will Rejoice Amidst Sorrow

**Habakkuk 3:17-18** states, *“Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.”*

What comes to mind when we think of sorrow? The term itself brings about a profound sadness that steals our hope, our joy and leaves us drained with only anxiety for tomorrow and the faint flicker of doubtful hope that is quelled by the coming night that heralds our darkest fears conflict with the spiritual. To some, sorrow may be defined as helplessness in terms of making ends meet, or sorrow might mean the deep distress of being persecuted and coerced to abandon your faith in God and the good you stand for, this might also mean the deep distress of trying to impact others, doing all you can to be of help but is answered by pride, wickedness, greed and contempt- giving your hand in friendship; but being abused, scorned and cursed. Sorrow dulls the hope; it dulls the truth we lay hold on and all we can think of is how pitiful we are, where we usually fall as we start thinking of ourselves as victims of circumstance instead of standing by the truth of God that states: *“No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.”* as found in **Romans 8:37**. Sorrow thrives because we allow it to, for as long as we pretend to be the master of our lives, the king of our destiny, the captain of our fate, sorrow will reign since we keep doing things our way instead of God’s way. **Habakkuk 3:17-18** speaks directly on what attitude we ought to exude in times of difficulty; it speaks of ones requirement to stand intentional in the faith despite the tribulations we may face. In this verse, we see the myriad of things that may cause anyone to lose faith, to lose all hope as a dryness is seen, as hunger is im-

minent, as our labor has been for nothing and lack is apparent. Habbakuk the prophet resolved to delight and triumph in the Lord; for when all is gone, his God is not gone. Destroy the vines and the fig-trees, and make all the happiness of a carnal heart to cease. But those who are trust in the Lord would stand to rejoice in the hour of plenty as well as the times of famine or draught. Our joy is not due to circumstance. Our joy is because of the great love of our King that empowers us to stand up and face a new day filled with hope.

The last day is the day at the end of time following Armageddon when God will decree the fates of all individual humans according to the good and evil of their earthly lives. With that, how are we going to live on the last day? In this world filled with tribulations and difficult circumstances, the only One to whom we can hold fast is our Almighty God who reigns forever. **Mark 11:22** states, *"Have faith in God," Jesus answered.*" Thus, we should live in faith no matter how sorrowful or the situation for our Lord will never leave us nor forsake us. Another is that we should live in the Word of God. **Hebrews 4:12** states, *"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.* It's not just about reading God's Word but living it through Jesus Christ. Our focusing on God should not be limited to reading His Word, in every aspect of our lives the glory of God is seen through our deeds as well. And lastly, we should live in peace that only God can give. As stated in **John 14:27**, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."* How can we rejoice amidst adversity? How can one be joyful amidst strife, amidst sorrow and pain? The answer is simple: Hope Fully In God!

Friend, We should not be dejected or cast down in the troubles of life, but should hope in God, and look forward to better times, if not in this world, certainly in the world to come. If we are His children, we shall "yet praise Him;" we shall acknowledge Him as the "health" or the salvation; we shall proclaim His goodness and we shall stand in faith that what He uttered; the promise of our Hope and future shall come to pass as we focus on Him, seek His face, trust His heart and await His wonders thus even though sorrow may come; we will rejoice in our King.



# Why Are You Looking Back?

Has there been a point in your life when you made a decision, where you know you did right, Then as you stand by your choice- you feel flutters in your stomach as you start to doubt yourself; start to question whether you did what was right; then finally you start looking back? And as you continue to look back, regret comes in to your heart as confusion begins to take hold. This is the common dilemma of many in this day and age, when a person can't ascertain the right choice; they start to double guess themselves as they slowly drift into confusion. They keep on looking back at past hurts, past mistakes, past problems instead of experiencing the present and look forward to the future God wants to bring.

**Isaiah 43:18-19-** *“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”*

God has something new in store thus let us stop living in the past, let us stop looking back. We can learn from the life of Lot and how by grace, God sent His angels to come and save him and his family from the clutches of destruction in Sodom and Gomorrah yet because of being desensitized from the truth; there was much hesitation in following the command shined through grace by the King of Kings. Lot initially came in that sinful city, a righteous man yet due to the wickedness of his surroundings; instead of being a light- he was blinded. Thus we see how being desensitized leads us to hesitate to follow righteousness, how being blinded leads us to look back. Such is the days in which we live in, when God in all His majesty implores us to flee from the world and focus on Him yet our hearts are still drawn to the things this world offers; Friends let us not fall like Lot's wife

who lingered on the temporal, looking back because she could not let go of those who chose to stay blind, stay wicked and perverse. Instead, let us live a life of purity and holiness, harken to our King, let go and let God move in our behalf. Let us not look back but let us aim forward, guard the eyes of our heart lest we be tempted when we are already sanctified and made whole by the blood of the lamb.

Looking back, That one look is the first step to us falling and being desensitized from the word of God, **Desensitized** means to lessen sensitivity, to decrease a response. Once we have already been saved, we became in tune to what God desires for us to do, we became sensitive to His calling yet once our heart turn away from Him: we start spiraling down. **Genesis 19:26** states: *But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.* she disobeyed an express command. Probably she desired to return for her house and goods in Sodom, and was saddened to leave them. Christ intimates this to be her sin, **Luke 17:31,32**, she regarded the things she possessed, the people who would not budge upon the warning to much. Her looking back spoke an inclination to go back; and therefore our Savior uses it as a warning against apostasy from our Christian profession. And she became a pillar of salt - She was struck dead in that place, yet her body did not fall but stood fixed like a monument of ones apostasy; a person's rejection of the faith due to the desires of the flesh and the love she had for the world.

Friend, we have already been sanctified and set apart for God's calling; let us not tarnish our salvation with actions that could lead to our own apostasy. Do not look back; do not be moved by the lies of the world or the idealism that we can do something or save someone. For salvation comes from Christ alone, instead let us insulate ourselves with the word of God, edify the brethren we have been blessed to serve with and encourage those who seek the truth which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



# Faith Under Pressure

James 4:8 states, *“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”*

What comes to mind when we think of pressure? The first thing that comes to mind is peer pressure; it has a negative notion that forces others to adhere to the demands of their peers for acceptance; yet slowly crushing the morality and sanity of the targeted person. Pressure depicts a force that compresses an object with its weight, causing it strain, tension which practically ends up with the shattering of the said object or in the case of peer pressure the person such as an orange squeezed by hand that results in squeezed juice with the destruction of the orange, or a balloon that has reached an altitude where the helium inside it expands which causes the balloon to pop due to the pressure of the atmosphere. Pressure is defined as the burden of physical or mental distress, the constraint of circumstance : the weight of social or economic imposition, the application of force to something by something else in direct contact with it. Pressure then could be safely defined as anything that causes burden, distress, opposition and oppression; and it is a blockade to us as it attempts to destroy the one thing that keeps us going; our faith. Can we really say that despite the situation; our Christianity would endure? Can we really state that despite the pressure; we will stand for the truth, suffer for what is right as we exude a calm demeanor? **James 4:8** states a clear exhortation that rings to all who are true, it states: *“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded”* James was clearly stating here to submit to God, abide in Him and resist the enemy that causes us to crumble by the pressure that this world inflicts. To be able to endure the pressure; we ought to draw near to God with all humility as we state our nothingness to

Him and our need of Him in our lives. We cannot have favor from Him if we seek Him at a distance. The true Christians are sifted from those who just claim to be by the quality of their Christianity and the faith walk that endures when troubles come; for it is by our reaction that our quality is determined, and it by our accord that we are tested. This is where the professing believers are divided from the real ones.

The two main things that allow pressure to take hold of us and crush our very faith are the Two Common Mistakes of Christians today: to flee and the hesitation mentality. **James 1:2-4** states - *“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”* Take it upon yourself to see pressure as a chance to exude God’s glory, consider it pure joy; that steadfastness or perseverance could be achieved. **Proverbs 3:27** states, *“Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.”* Do not hesitate to do good and better things; Don’t set prayer as an excuse to procrastinate on what God is calling you to do. Do it despite what you feel; transcend feeling and do what is good. Faith withstands under pressure through the contriteness of our heart and humility. If we fall into pressure, it means that we don’t have faith; but if we stand up regardless of the pressure and endure it; our faith has stood up by scrapping pride and standing humble and meek. These are the keys to withstand intentional, shattering feeling and choosing to shine God’s light.

Friend, today I call out to you. God knows what you are going through; Each moment has an underlying score of pressure that oppresses us and creates in our lives a tumultuous storm in which we can’t see the end of it all; yet understand that those who humble themselves and draw near to God; he draws near to; change your ways and surrender the darkness in your hearts to the King; renew from double mindedness and seek God’s face alone, seek to please Him with all we are by standing humble; acknowledging our faults and stand teachable.



# Cast Your Bread Upon The Waters

Let us start with a simple question: Who sits in the throne of your heart? initially we would answer: God but do our actions, our walk shine this answer? Most of time we come to church seeking encouragement instead of truth, hoping for breakthrough instead of breaking through the wall of our pride and honestly consider if we are truly ready for fruition, if our hearts are in its right condition? For what we treasure most is where our hearts are, thus our giving or taking depends on the condition of our heart. Being able to cast our bread upon the waters is a sign that we have a giving heart, a heart that God inhabits but if our heart is not of a dispenser of blessing but seeking blessing alone, all taking and no giving; that would mean that we are self focused & not God focused. Casting bread upon the waters mean that we have entered a spiritual surrender; that we would obey unquestioning for we trust God's goodness; so much that we would give all not even thinking of tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself; for great is God's faithfulness; He will provide!

**Ecclesiastes 11:1**- *“Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again.”*

Casting bread means to give generously, to let go of what we hold dear, not to lose it but to bestow to those who need it, that one day when we are found in need, that good you have sown will come back to you. This is the heritage of the righteous, those who cast freely not worrying for oneself but trusting God for provisions since all that we have is from Him and all that we will have, all that we will possess is by His great faithfulness, not by our thrift, or ingenuity. The bread symbolizes the good we ought to be doing; the good we ought to be imparting; without worry-

ing for ourselves; but having a selfless heart, a heart willing to cast its bread upon the waters and hoping to impact, to bless, to help out someone with the overall objective of making someone happy. Be the representation of God's goodness to a brother or sister that in our life; we may impact people and shine His great faithfulness. Be intentional in ones giving that people may see the ever giving Jesus Christ in our walk, as we seek His face.

Like the Broadway song for the musical Do Re Mi, we are called by God to make someone happy; be the person that impacts them and give our time, resources and effort to complete the joy they hope for in their lives. By doing this, we exude the giving heart of Christ. Understand that God cares about us, He is much more involved in how we treat one another than we would care to realize. **Matthew 25:40 states:** *“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’* For how can we love the unseen when we can't love the seen? Know that a person, a brother, a sister in the faith is a child of God, made in His image. How we treat them manifests how we view our King. When we come to church, when we are called not to forsake the assembly, when we are called to give in abundance, loving each other as the day draws near exudes that Christianity is not focused on you, it requires selflessness and a focus on Christ; being focused on Christ means to emulate His idealism; and Christ's movement has always been and still is: About the people. About His people.

Friend, my prayer is that you would begin to understand what it means to give, to have a heart that is filled with love for others that giving in abundance becomes automatic; worry free and enveloped with much joy. Know that the greatest joy can only be ours if we are connected to God's vision of making things happen for others as He desires to make our hopes happen for us, live to make someone happy; cast your bread upon the waters and trust in God's great faithfulness .



# Be Rare, Go Against the Tide

Of all the amazing creatures God created, The salmon shines as a creature who stands to be different. The life of a salmon is very interesting. They are born in fresh waters and as they get older they eventually go to live in the salt water seas. But when the salmon reaches its maturity they have an absolute resolve to return to their fresh water breeding grounds. The trip back is a seemingly impossible task, full of dangers, as they must swim countless miles against the powerful currents. No matter how difficult the journey becomes, the salmon never stops swimming, otherwise the current would sweep them. It would be easier for them to stay in their comfort zone, not face the seemingly impossible task of reaching their breeding grounds, but the salmon understands their purpose; they have resolved to willingly swim against the powerful current in order to give birth, in order to continue the line of their species. They suffer to give life. As Christians, God has commanded us to “swim against the currents of un-holiness.” As Christians we know the odds are stacked heavily against us as we strive to follow Christ in this world. We live in times of immense temptations, we reside in a world filled with unholy-ness and impurity. Every single day we are pounded by the currents of immorality & wickedness, as Christians we face an ever increasing danger; that if we don’t keep swimming against those powerful currents we will be swept away by them.

**1 Peter 1:14-16-** *“14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”*”

Peter is calling out to believers to live a life that is holy and pleasing to God by focusing on Him alone and intentionally desiring to become the New creation we

are called to be; not conforming to the world or the things of the past that we once thought we're pleasurable due to our ignorance but to live a life of holiness, of purity, of praise. It is time to shatter the flow, debunk the norms; Be the rarity as we stand obedient to our King and intentionally live a life of holiness, a life of purity as we seek to emanate His life changing presence

Peter's call to holiness comes with 2 specific steps to guide us in living for purity, being rare as we swim against the tide as found in **1 Peter 1:14-16**. **The 1st step** is: **Obedience is Key**; the mark of a born again believer is: It is our obedience, this is what separates the children of God from the Children of the world. Each one is God's creation yet not all of us are His children. Obedience is the key to holiness and a mark of a true believer since we are asked to be different from the rest; be Holy. **The 2nd step** is: **Be Intentionally Holy**; Living a life of holiness has never been easy, yet know that we are never alone; by seeking the Holy Spirit we are able to exude holiness in our walk; and by intentionally desiring change; we would personally witness our transformation as we anchor ourselves to the word of God. By taking these two points, applying them to our walk and setting them as the tent-pole standards to our faith, we will be able to go against the tide of this world and shine God's light in our lives as we stand to become the people the worshippers God has called us to be; living a life of purity & holiness & glorifying Christ in our walk.

My prayer is that we intentionally move to begin anew, its a day to stand up and become different; be a rarity. It is time we redefine our Christianity, redefine our lives that we may exude His light in each aspect of our being. Let us stand to go against the tide, rooting ourselves to the truth of God's word and pushing forward, making every effort to confirm our call, as we recalibrating our Christianity to live a life of praise, a life of worship to the King of Kings.



# Suffer for Truth

What is truth? Truth has been defined as sincerity of action, character & utterance, a fidelity to reality and constancy to fact. Truth symbolizes what is morally right, what is factual, real & honest yet many who claim to seek the truth never find the truth for this world peddles deceit. Warren Buffet stated: *“Honesty is a very expensive gift, do not expect it from cheap people.”* this simple quotation proves to be accurate since to uphold truth means to suffer for what is right, which is a high price to pay. Thus unless we appreciate the value of truth, we won’t be able to shine or reciprocate honesty in our walk, we won’t suffer for it’s life giving, freedom bearing quality. How many of us are willing to suffer for what is right, suffer for the truth?

**Proverbs 12:22-** *“The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.”*

The writer states what the Lord detest; lips that utter lies, Lying lips are abomination to the Lord. Such that speak lies in common talk; and that deliver out doctrinal lies, lies in hypocrisy; these are abominable unto God; for a lie is contrary to His nature as the God of truth; contrary to the Scriptures of truth; contrary to the truth of the Gospel; contrary to his Son, who is truth Himself. That is why any form of deceit especially from those who already know the life changing truth in Christ is sin in itself and is an abomination, a rebellion against the voice of Truth. God’s delight has never been in our sacrifice or service but in our obedience, He requires our obedience to His commands; to speak only truth. As God is love, he delights not in evil. **1 Corinthians 13:6** states: *“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.”* God asks us to suffer for what is right, He desires that we be set-apart not just in words but more so in our actions, that though the path be diffi-

cult, or lonesome- we stand our ground in suffering for the truth as we fight the good fight and keep the faith. **1 Peter 3:17** states: *“For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.”*

For the end of the righteous despite the difficulty we face has a promise of glory as we face our Lord & Savior: Jesus Christ! In the world today, many people have fallen into a myriad of plots and devises to procure higher income, or a better prices for services rendered or products sold, not that it isn't right for one to get the price her/she deserves but when a person goes too far to obtain more. Even people who claim to be Christians have wallowed in such schemes as people forget righteousness, forget their christianity and delve into strategies that were birthed by a hunger for wealth and blatant greed. **Proverbs 16:8** states: *“Better is a little with righteousness Than great income with injustice.”* it doesn't matter if the income isn't great as long as the methods of earning income was honest and true, not cheating nor resorting to bribery than to have great income at the expense of our righteousness, falling into moral decay as we loose touch of the truth in our hearts and the change set forth by the King of Kings in our lives. Truth must persevere in our hearts; righteousness must stand in all aspects of our lives; better to suffer for truth then to enjoy the fruits of deceit.

My prayer is that we intentionally stand for truth, and speak only truth despite the difficulty that it entails- My desire is that we stand willing to suffer for what is right; thinking little of the repercussions of stating the truth but living only to dispense the truth which is our mandate as New creations, set-apart and sanctified by the blood of the lamb that truth be second nature to us, truth in all aspects of our being; truth in every aspect of our life In Jesus name Amen!



# Deprivation Due to Omission

Omission, It is defined as the act of stating the truth yet leaving out a substantial part. To omit a fact, to fail in doing something or neglecting to accomplish a responsibility or task; to exclude part of the truth- giving a partial account instead of the whole statement. It is by omission that many do not know the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, that many have a false- biased understanding of what Christianity is all about and what the term born again truly entails. Thus due to the omission of many, people have been deprived of a full life, a life where healing is given and where eternity is not only possible but assured. Deprivation occurs when omission settles in, when the truth; when what is good is omitted and deception is readily given. It is time to stand against omission, break every bondage of deceit in our lives and do only what is righteous, state only what is true. Now is the hour to shatter omission's hold lest we have deprived many, or deprived ourselves of the blessing of righteousness

**James 4:17-** *“Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.”*

The term “good” in James 4:17 is from the Greek word kalos which describes what is qualitatively good, morally excellent, worthy of honor, and upright. The term “knows” is translated from the Greek root oida which means “to know perfectly well.” Knowing what is right, what we should do, what is correct and moral creates the obligation to discharge the duty involved in it. We cannot claim ignorance for we know what is right, what is true, what is lovely and just. The problem is that many hear but seldom heed which makes many a christian: practical atheists. There are Christians who believe there is a God, but behave as if there is no God. For example, atheists do not pray to God because they do not believe in His

existence. Christians do not pray to God who they believe does exist. How can we be differentiated from those who do not believe if our lives do not equate what we believe? By stating what is true, by doing what is righteous, thus exuding our calling as the Children of the living God, only then will we see breakthrough unfold for we owned up to our calling and released the blessing which is the heritage of those who truly believe.

We probably are wondering, how come I'm a Christian, I am keeping the faith-reading the word yet breakthrough is not evident in my life? Have we checked our omission lately, have been living a life devoid of truth, devoid of righteousness? If that is the case, then by way of omission our walk is no different to the people of the world, by way of omission our life as Christians don't equate because we do not obey what God asks of us, because we do not heed His call- though we are Christians we don't experience a full life which should be the heritage of the Saints. Why? because we don't do, we know what is right, we know what is asked from us, we know we should state only the truth; shine God's love and goodness, intentionally love, intentionally seek Christ but we don't do it; we wallow around in what we shouldn't do. The statement in **James 4:17** is clear, when we know what is right- we ought to do what is right; suffer for the truth that we may not be victims of our self-made affliction; that we are not deprived of the good God has set for us due to our own deceit & omission.

Friend, my prayer is that today we do not fall into the dark path of omission, nor should we chose to live a lie because it is the easy way out or because our pride is greater than the trust we ought to have in God. God wants us to see breakthrough. Fruition is ours to unlock, ours to lay hold off- let us not be our own blessing blocker, let go of omission, don't stand deprived for knowing what is right yet still doing that which is wrong; be the light God called you to be; In Jesus name Amen!



# Leave or Live God's Word

In a scale from 1-10, how would we rate ourselves in regards to living what we are reading. Each Christian has been called to exude the word of God in our lives, yet many only partake of the word, only listen to it but never stepped out of their comfort zone to apply what they learned. How many can actually say that every aspect of their life shines God's goodness, how many can state we stand willing and obedient to the will of God, that we live, breath, emulate and exude God's word. Awhile back, there was a slogan that stated: I Eat, Breathe and Sleep- then the object of their passion or hobby was placed after that phrase such as Music, Basketball, Coffee, Snickers, Etc. How many of us eat, breathe and sleep the word of God, how many of us manifest the word of God in our lives that it has become second nature to a point that people take notice of our lifestyle, our reactions and attitude being different? That our reading the word, our coming to church has produced a product that is noticeable not only to the outside world but to your family, and to your church.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23-** *“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

This verse is Paul's blessing to the people of Thessalonica for Paul knew the weakness of the saints thus he shared with them that unless the Lord opened their ears to discipline, and sealed instruction to them, they won't be able to exude holiness. Paul's blessing was to remind each person to desire to become the person God called us to be by living His word as we wait on Him. When we open our Bibles, the product of our reading should be changed lives; not just great FB statuses

or theological standpoints. For if we are not living His word, we are leaving it for the world. Living the word of God means to be molded and purified by its truths; the residual effect of God's word is sanctification not just encouragement. We all have a choice, we could live God's word, be pressed and broken that we may stand sanctified as we bear concentrated fruit or we could leave the word- the choice is ours, but I implore you: Live God's Word!

Consider how each Cocoa bean goes through a rigorous selection process; each of these beans are fruits yet not all are the proper fruit to create the chocolate, only the ones that are concentrated, only the ones who shine quality get to make it through the cut; and the rest are thrown out. The question we ought to be asking is; are we bearing good, concentrated fruit, are we exuding a concentrated product of God's movement in our lives? ***Matthew 7:16*** states - *"You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?"* Jesus is telling us clearly that everyone has fruit, but are we bearing the fruit God wants us to bear? The proper fruit of the tree, the right response to the gospel of Hope which we have received through Christ? The key here is to desire to bear the proper fruit, desire to produce a product that shines God's goodness at every turn. To be intentional to live a life of devotion to the King, obeying Him in all aspects of our existence. Unless we do this, we are going against God, leaving His life giving word and swimming in the waters of the world.

Friend, My prayer is that today we may press on and live the word of God in all aspects of our lives; that we may exude only the concentrated residual product of God's goodness in our walk. That we would stand for His truth alone. That in all we do, from our dealings at home to the workplace; the word of God be lived out in our lives as the evidence of bearing pure concentrated fruit through our obedience manifest that our King be glorified by the life we live, In Jesus name Amen!



# Seek Meekness in Wisdom

**James 3:13** states, *“Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.”*

When we hear the term wisdom, what is the first thing that comes to mind? When we state wisdom, we focus on meekness or modesty for unless meekness is evident in wisdom, that is not true Godly wisdom; without meekness, wisdom is but an empty boast of the shrewdness of man instead of the powerful transformation that God does in our life as we stand moldable in His precepts, chiseled by His truth and strengthened by His grace. James 3:13 is spoken in reference to those who seek an office in public teaching, in service as an apostle or elder to the church, yet this text is mainly set for us who claim to stand for the gospel, who claim to believe for in its truth lies the key to unlock our personal growth in God. In verse 13 it states: “Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.” The initial question is not to condemn any who think they are wise for all should desire to be in wisdom yet it arrests the thinking of worldly wisdom and it questions us who seek to be wise as to the times when our discernment failed, when our ear were turned to our strength than God’s, it stands then as a challenge to those who appear to be wise. James states, if you are truly wise, you will show the works of wisdom, it finds expression in ones daily life; ones conduct, it means in all clarity the works we ourselves exude, the attitude we manifest and how we react and respond to victories, the daily trivialities and the annoyances of life. Wisdom means more than just talk, it means walk. **2 Timothy 3:15** states, *“You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.”* Timothy in this verse is exhorted by Paul and told the truth as to wis-

dom, that the Holy Scriptures makes one wise to accept and cleave to the gospel. Wisdom is birthed from brokenness, from humility, from the acceptance of our own impurity and imperfection for in so doing, we accept the truth of how much we need our King due to our wretchedness. Godly wisdom is not boastful of knowledge since its definition is the complete application of knowledge, wisdom is action.

**Philippians 1:27** states, *“Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.”* True wisdom requires right and proper conduct, becoming of the good news. Wisdom stands for honesty as found in **1 Peter 2:12**, it will be chaste or pure as found in **1 Peter 3:1-2** and it exudes no covetousness as found in **Hebrews 13:5**. Wisdom exudes respect as it shines humility, it shines meekness- there is no haughty spirit. If you cannot respect your husband, your wife, your children, if you cannot respect the time of others; it boils to only one thing, you cannot respect God and you don't shine wisdom in your life. True wisdom is the meekness, the submission to the call, the humility to accept and call out our need for the retiring, restraining power of the Holy Spirit to change our lives and quell the darkness in our hearts. It is the outcry of one broken enough to know the truth, that- *“Knowledge is proud that she has learned so much, Wisdom is humble that she knows no more.”* In our insufficiency, we cleave to our God & His Wisdom.

Friend, My prayer is that today we seek to truly recalibrate our Christianity and seek Godly wisdom in our walk by standing meek, humble, reasonable and courteous. May it be that the wisdom we hunger to exude be pure, becoming of the gospel, honest and content as we stand broken, adorned only by meekness. Friends, wisdom is something we can see for it is put to practice, it is a working that we ought to exude; it is an action we ought to manifest. In Jesus Name Amen!



# Owning Up To Kingdom Mentality

Kingdom Mentality means the discipline of knowing and understanding that we are bond-servant of Christ and subjects under the reign of the Most High God thus all we were, all we are and all we will ever be, our will, our strength, our passion and all aspects of our being is only present because of the tremendous grace of our King and the great faithfulness He has manifested in our lives. Christians have royal blood flowing through our veins by the grace of God; ***Romans 8:17*** states that we are *“heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.”* ***Revelation 1:6*** says that Jesus *“has made us kings and priests to His God and Father.”* Thus by God’s power & grace, we have been given authority, but kingdom authority does not happen by default. There are certain things we can do (or not do) that can hinder us from exercising that authority and receiving the benefits of our heirship

Plainly when we start losing focus on God, when we put our work, studies, hobbies and passions before God, before reading His word- if our desire for His presence, for His truth flickers- then our hearts have lost its first love and we lose purpose as we wander aimlessly in this life. Then we wonder why we lack that fire for God that we once had, why we have lost boldness to preach the gospel, why reading God’s word becomes a chore instead of a privilege. Why our service lacks anointing- why we have difficulty waking up in the morning to face a new dawn. Because we have lost love for God, we have turned loveless. Our mentality focuses not on God’s kingdom but on the world we should have turned our backs to. ***Luke 9:57-62*** we see the cost of following Christ; understand that the true requirement of righteousness is a direct focus on God, investing all we are; our time, passion and resources to His call. Yet many Christians omit such factors since their brand of Christianity dictates that they would praise God only when it is conven-

ient and that usually is a Sunday; that they would help out, make a difference and impact others if it does not discomfort them or cost them nothing. It time to change our mindset, let go of our old self and focus on Kingdom Mentality as we shine God's light through all aspects of our lives; in Jesus name Amen

**Luke 9:62** states: *Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."* A plow is a tool used in farming to cultivate the land and enrich the soil that when the seed is cast; the soil readily accepts each seed and quickens the growth of the plant for harvest. To put one's hand to a plow is a proverbial expression to signify undertaking any business. In order that a plowman may accomplish his work, it is necessary to look onward - to be intent on his employment, on his task- not to be looking back with regret that he undertook it. So in our faith, when we enters Christianity and service- we must live and accomplish what we are called to do with our whole heart, those who cannot die to self, purge their passions for the world, who cannot "wholly" forsake this things cannot, will not and will never be or can be called a Christian nor are they fit to enter the Kingdom of God since they are corrupted or drawn by this world. In order to have a Kingdom mindset; we ought to low forward by forgetting what lies behind and set our hearts on the ultimate prize: Christ our Lord.

Friend, God wants us to live life and have it in all abundance, He yearns that we obtain our desires that our joy be complete yet the key to our breakthrough is in owning up to the call set forth by our King; we hinder blessing by our own mindset and attitude. I call out to each saint of AHF to shake off complacency; change our mindset and focus our hearts on Christ; letting go of every ungodly thing, every idol we placed before our God and recalibrate our Christianity by: Owning Up To Kingdom Mentality.



# Sober Up: Draw The Line

Drawing the line is defined as a point where an action, idealism or force is not permitted to enter; it is the limit set for ones activities, vices and viewpoints; to break this line is to enter the point where ones reason and self control is absent; to break this line is to enter the point of no return. The moment of relapse, When we exit God's presence when all that has been delivered from us just comes back in; Then we start wasting away. This is a sad state; when we fall down due to our lack of focus on sanctification; for purity is set aside as we dabble into the pleasures of carnality, we rebel against God's moral law, against His majesty and righteous commands for we take His sacrifice lightly. Our movement as Christians should be to draw the line, to learn our limit and uphold that point for we desire to please God with our lives. Understand that failure to draw the line means that we let our vices, our sins and our old self take control of our being; and anything that controls us becomes a sin. Setting a limiter in ourselves means that we would stand for accountability, not waiting for someone to ask what is wrong but stand to confess the wrongs we have done and free ourselves from the sting of sin. Accountability only works if we desire to stand accountable; it helps if we are willing to confess our sins and ask for prayer and counsel. For we desire not to live a life of omission, of unrighteousness. We desire to draw the line, stop the act; break the habit and move to glory as we seek sanctification. **1 Thessalonians 5:8-9** - *"But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Paul speaks to us about the importance of shining moderation as to all earthly things; the call to sober up is literal in its stead- to be awake, be vigilant and ever watchful. Don't get careless, lazy or complacent but hone the

faith, keep watch and proclaim the coming of Christ. Shall Christians, who have the light of the blessed gospel shining in their faces, be careless about their souls, and unmindful of another world? We need the spiritual armor which is: graces, faith, love, and hope which can only manifest if our focus is Christ alone.

Accountability is a discipline we ought to apply if we desire to live a life of righteousness; for by confessing our sins- the darkness in our hearts loses its sting as we stand to confess our wrong doings to God and to our brethren. There is no such thing as privacy when our souls are concerned; for what is said in secret God will proclaim on the rooftops and all that is hidden will come to light for truth must be upheld than reputation. We are already have set apart, Thus we can't take the sacrifice of our King lightly; We won't sleep walk in our walk; we won't stand complacent but we ought to stand alert & vigilant through accountability as we focus on Jesus Christ. ***Luke 10:20*** - *however, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.*" The time will come that we will all face God, we will not face God by group, by family or by church. We will face God on our own, We cannot pretend that we are Christians, because God knows His sheep. Thus take this opportunity in the time of grace to recalibrate your Christianity, stand for accountability & shine righteousness that we may stand pleasing to God.

Friend, My prayer today is that we may stand to be accountable to our King and be accountable to each other, that we may strengthen each other, admonish and intercede for those who face weakness and become the people God has called us to be, may we stand to recalibrate our Christianity, draw the line on sin and focus on God. It is time to sober up and stay accountable as we intentionally live a life of purity, holiness and sanctification, placing Christ as the focal point of our existence. In Jesus name Amen!



# Chiseled To SHINE

Why does God, our church leaders and parents do what they do? Why do we chastise in order to exude love? That I think is the main question I always pondered on each time my mother would apprehend me for the mistakes I've done; how can punishment exude love? Have you heard of the quotation: "Spare the rod and Spoil the Child?" unlike popular belief, this statement is not found in the bible; this was taken from a poem written by Samuel Barber, an American poet and composer in 1664. but this particular statement which has been the key quote for discipline in the home was inspired from scripture. **Proverbs 13:24** states - *"He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him."* This stands as the main point of being chiseled in order for each person to shine. To be chiseled means to be fine tuned; to smooth out the impurities that the true beauty of the hand crafted object or masterpiece may truly shine. Each person is hand crafted by God, fine tuned in order that we become His masterpiece; Yet we cannot reach excellence if discipline is forgotten. I was always told before my punishment that my sentence was done because I was loved; I was cared for and as such my mother would rather see me in pain right now than to see me well but living in sin; standing for wickedness instead of good. We have a moral obligation to correct and uphold righteousness lest one day the person we spared from discipline causes more problems to a point that correction is not the prescribed punishment and death becomes the price for ones atrocities. In **Hebrews 12:6-7** we see the universal rule set for by God to those whom He loves; *"For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child. As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father?"* It does not, of course, mean that He sends chastisement which is not de-

served; or that he sends it "for the mere purpose" of inflicting pain. It means that by his chastisements he shows that he has a paternal care for us. He does not treat us with neglect and unconcern; but He shine love through discipline & strength through grace. Understand that we all have the potential to shine God's goodness, We all have the potential to exude righteousness but it is the constant chiseling that turns us into His masterpiece. the real enemy is our old self trying to come back especially at times of weakness; when we face harsh criticism, when our mistakes are magnified and our wrong doings are inquired upon. This is the moment when our defenses are up and we start devising plans to turn the discussion away from our shortcomings; at that moment- take a deep breath and stop. There is no need to defend, no need to react unbecoming; ask God right then and there for the grace to humbly accept ones mistake, take the positive points and surrender to God the negative statements given to us and start tweaking our attitude and personality as we focus on Him and saturate ourselves with His word. It is our reaction that He is watching, our lives He desires to change; take this difficult moments as an opportunity to be chiseled, to be reformed and to cleanse oneself of darkness, though it maybe difficult- Trust in the Lord, be intentional in holiness & stand for righteousness.

Friend, my prayer today is that we may come into the wisdom of the most High God as we stand willing to be reproached, rebuked and corrected; for this is the chisel set forth by our King to carve every impurity in our lives and sanctify our walk. It is the fervent discipline that molds us to be the people God called us to be. I pray that as we stand for sanctification, may we be strengthened and though the path of discipline as we trust in the completion of our faith through Christ Jesus our Lord & Savior.



# Exude a Tranquil Heart

Proverbs 14:30 states, *“A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.”*

Envy has been defined as “a feeling of discontent or covetousness with regard to another’s advantages, success, possessions, etc.” **Ecclesiastes 4:4** which states, *“Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man’s envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.”* In Hebrew, envy is translated as “Evil Eye”; Socrates once stated, *“Envy is the daughter of pride, the author of murder and revenge, the begetter of secret sedition, the perpetual tormenter of virtue. Envy is the filthy slime of the soul; a venom, a poison, a quicksilver, which consumeth the flesh and drieth up the bones”* It is by envy that many even those who profess to be true believers fall, for it is subtle in its attacks; it begins with desire; and though desire to achieve what another has also achieved is good especially if you desire to imitate Godly people; desire that is tinged with resentment turns that desire into wanton obsession; the resentment of seeing good things happen for others and not for you- that is envy. Envy is a surefire manifestation of unbelief; a lack of faith as we stand to compare ourselves and our situation to others as we desire to escape our problems and steal with our hearts and minds what is not ours. Envy is a manifestation of a lack of faith, a lack of trust that God has our best at heart, that God has a plan for us; a hope and a future. In **Exodus 20:17**; God decreed, *“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”* God is telling us here; do not so much as look to what your neighbor has for I give in accordance to what is just and right; these are not yours and yours is not your neighbors. God is calling us not to fall into envy; understand that jealousy comes from counting another’s blessings instead of your own. We are therefore warned in the book of Proverbs as to the danger that Envy causes and

the attitude we ought to exude thus to counter the poison of envy which endangers our lives both physically & spiritually. **Proverbs 14:30**, states, “*A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.*” Here we see a wisdom that envy destroys us from the inside out.

Envy does not help us attain our desire; instead it leaves feeling sorry for ourselves, resenting all who are around us and leads to our end as we face death; bitter about the what if’s, never content with what we had and angry at God, at our friends; & ourselves. It is like a consuming disease that attacks bones and marrow of a man's moral life. Envy is one of the primary tools used by the enemy to steal, kill and destroy. Dan Igle once said: “*Satan wants your Identity, your Integrity, your dignity & your destiny.*” Understand that envy destroys but here lies one thing we can exude in order to triumph against envy: “a heart that is tranquil.” In some versions, it is termed: a sound heart or a heart of health in which our appetites, our desires, and our emotions are in a state of healthy equilibrium through Christ. Tranquility means to be steady, calm, quiet and still. Still in God, never breaking character but rising up in each situation by the blood that purchased us from Sin and into His keeping; to be tranquil in heart means to be still in Christ. Proverbs 23:17 states, “Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the Lord all day.” Thus we stand steady in Him despite circumstances, despite the wanton desires of our heart and what our eyes may lust over for we have set our eyes not on things of the flesh anymore but in Christ alone.

Friend, To fear the Lord, to revere Him, is to set Christ as our only focus. Thus, we shall remain still, steady, standing in faith, never yielding to envy, crushing unbelief but choosing to be grateful in all things, in each blessing, for each day since we know in our hearts that our life is the working of the goodness of God and His great faithfulness; thus we stand content; balancing our desires and emotions with Christ as the focal point of everything in our walk. Thus, today, stand and choose to exude a tranquil heart through Christ Jesus.



# Undivided Heart

What is an Undivided Heart? The Merriam Webster Dictionary defines undivided as not divided or scattered among several areas of interest; but concentrated and focused on a singular goal or purpose and heart is defined for our purposes as one's innermost character, feelings or inclinations- therefore we can define undivided heart as one's concentrated and focused inclination towards a purpose he or she desires to attain or experience. Now let us underline the word focused & concentrated; let us highlight the term undivided for these three synonymous terms are a rarity to exude in this day and age, though continuously used to invoke imagery in sermons, preachings, books in our faith. Why? for many believers tend to read, receive and study these words yet come out none the wiser since its definition is not binded into our hearts, it is not applied, not exuded as the key to a wonderful Christian life, instead these words are viewed as common embellishments to resound a thought. In this age of multitasking; we are we start to divide our focus and hopefully accomplish several of our purposes despite the mediocrity we exude. How many us would claim to have read the bible, thrive in the word yet come crunch time- when the gospel ought to be defended, when His word ought to be remembered and preached- we freeze, too petrified to move, to fearful to stand boldly for His truth? That we are ministers of God, we know scriptures by heart, we are assured of His faithfulness and love yet come the trials and difficulty; we forget who we really are and run with our tails tucked between our legs. Friends, this is not the viewpoint we ought to exude; nor should we divide our focus on the myriad of things we desire; but intentionally set our hearts to focus on God alone and unite our hearts to the wisdom and purpose of our King- only by doing this will we see the fruition and promise we have set our hearts on. In **Psalm 86:11**, we

see the request of King David and importance of emulating such a request in our lives; *“Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.”* Notice the outcry, most of the time we call out to God for need, but what we ought to be crying out to the Lord for is His guidance in all we do and accomplish.

There is a sense of urgency in this statement for unless God guides us, unless we walk in God’s truth; we will forever be led astray from the purpose bestowed on us. We are called to be sanctified, and we can’t do that by being soft on ourselves.

Then comes the part that strikes me the most; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. - in other versions; it calls to unite one’s heart, the Hebrew term for this is *Yached Lebabi*- it means to join all purposes, all resolutions, affections of our heart that we may fear and glorify your name. This is one of the most important prayers that we ought to pray. A divided heart is a great curse; scattered affections are a miserable plague. When the heart is not at unity with itself, the work of sanctification cannot go on. Indecision of mind and division of affections mar any work. The heart must be one, that the work may be one. This is a prayer that should be uttered by every believer as we stand to revere the Lord by the words we utter and the life we lead. It is imperative to demolish each argument, as we journey on through the path of sanctification and focus on God alone.

Friend, My prayer is that we may stand to check our hearts and minds if we have partitioned our Christianity and divided our hearts to the myriad of things we desire and need to accomplish; if we have then I implore you today to recalibrate our Christianity and seek God’s power to make our divided hearts, undivided; unified and made whole- with a singular focus and that is to please God and fear His name. It must be intentional for us to cast all things captive into obedience to Christ our Lord, in Jesus name; AMEN!



# One Heart, One Mind

What does it mean to have an One Heart and One Mind? Having One Heart and One mind is defined as the state of being in perfect friendship and affection with one another, It is roughly translated by Aristotle as One soul in two bodies, that we are so in tuned to the constancy and movement of the Most High God that we accomplish together what He desires for us to do, not moving on our own accord but by His perfect will which we can ascertain by the renewal of our mind. It is a relationship that is defined to be sensitive to the needs of one another, to complete each other and stand in perfect union, not by our own design but by the power of God and His amazing love that dwells in each of us. This is where many of us usually fail: many Christians exude an independence from the brethren and from God which could be termed as blatant insubordination. When we do things our way than God's way, When we put self first and ignore what Christ is asking us to accomplish, what our brethren is seeking us to complete. When we are not connected to the point where only our wants, our needs are met instead of being a person who dispenses the blessing we are called to give, instead of being the Light God desires us to be. In **Acts 4:3** we see the early church come to a union built not by the bounds of men but by the love that God. In Verse 3 it states: *“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.”* There was an entire consent and agreement in doctrine, in matters of faith they were all of one mind and judgment, and there was a perfect harmony in their practice, they all performed the same duties, and observed the same commands and ordinances; and all pursued the same interest, and had the same ends and views; and there was a strict union of their affections to each other; their souls were knit to one another; so that there was, but as it were,

one soul in this large body of Christians. There was no division, no heart turned to his own; but each one was connected to the vision of Christ, the call of the church and the need of the brethren. How beautiful this unified thought is, not united through a system, a method or idealism; but united with one heart through Christ.

The believers at this time voluntarily reserved all they had, their time and resources to the need of the body of Christ and the purpose our God has set in their hearts. They stood in mutual support with each other as to carry the common cause of Christ and uphold His kingdom. How far have we fallen, when we no longer see the value of being united, when we go before everyone, go before our King only to secure our own interest, our own wants, our own desires since we lack passion for Christian union, the passion to be one with our family in our faith in Christ. Stop thinking that we are masters of our own lives thus our decision is our own; for what we have is not completely ours, the truth is not even our own lives which we always term as our own is truly ours; this life we have is God's. It is He who moves, strengthens us, empowers us to survive, to reach our hopes and aspiration; not us- the same way that our time, resources are not completely ours, they are our King's. In such let us stop thinking on our own, connect with God and move when He tells us to that we may see breakthrough in our walk and blessings overflow.

Friends, Today my prayer is that each one of us come to the realization that we as new creations shouldn't be making decisions on our own, but quickly ask God for wisdom and discernment that our choices be one with Him and His purpose in our lives. My hope is that today, we will put an end to the idea of our rebellious function and instead renew our minds as we come to the knowledge of Christ, connect with our brethren, stop acting on our own accord but connect to our King by having: One Heart, One Mind; In Jesus Name AMEN!



# Is Your Tongue For Blessing or Destruction

Have you heard of the statement: Hung By The Tongue? The initial picture that I came up with when hearing this phrase was a man, hanging on the gallows with his tongue as the rope that compressed the carotid arteries or jugular veins while blocking off the larynx and trachea. This statement means that it is by what we say, what we state that we are condemned. It is our tongues that places us in a problematic predicament. It is our words that places us into troublesome circumstances. A Japanese Proverb once stated: *“A tongue three inches long can kill a man six feet tall.”* Though the tongue might seem harmless, with no consequential value besides taste; the tongue holds a deadly power: the spoken word. **Proverbs 21:23** states - *“Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.”* There is a virtue in silence especially if no good comes out of our mouth. In silence we can ponder what we should say; how we should answer. Ever heard of the saying; “speech is silver, silence is golden” this means; stay your tongue if no good word will manifest from your mouth. This is a tried and true idealism since the dawning of the age. Yet as you noticed, these sayings have failed to deter painful statements from arising. Each person is entitled to their own opinions yet this also led people to bash, assassinate another person’s character by malicious comments. We are warned by James in regards to allowing our tongue to run wildly. In **James 3:5-6** *“Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.”* We are taught to dread an unruly tongue, as one of the greatest evils. Our journey in this life gets thrown into confusion by the unruliness of our tongue and of others. Every age of the world, and every condition of life, private or pub-

lic, affords examples of this. Hell has more to do in promoting the fire of the tongue than men generally think; and whenever men's tongues are employed in sinful ways, they are set on fire of hell. It is imperative then to tame the tongue yet understand that we cannot accomplish this without God's grace.

In order to insure that we tame our tongue, we ought to confess our sins and willingly admit our faults. Ask God to help us sift through our heart and check ourselves. Then comes the next step which could be summed up in 1 word; Restraint. This is synonymous to self control; we ought to have this in order to not be ruled by emotions but to be intentional in exuding God's goodness despite our situation. Take a moment before answering, before speaking and ask God for wisdom and discernment. Ask Him to teach you what to say and what not to say that only good comes from your mouth; and only blessings are bestowed. We cannot keep on using our tongue to curse our brethren yet each Sunday we use it to praise our King. Have a singular focus and set your tongue captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ. Pious and edifying language is the genuine produce of a sanctified heart; No true believer should use their mouths for curses, lies, boastings, misrepresentation and so on and so forth. Let us think before we speak, pray before we utter anything and ask God for wisdom and discernment that we may state only what would edify, encourage, inspire and help out a situation. In this way, we glorify our King in all our ways.

Friend, My prayer is that today we may focus on the importance of taking a few seconds before answering, breathing a prayer before speaking and asking God for guidance before we engage in any conversation as we seek to guard our tongues and use it to edify not to tear down, to speak truth; not falsities; to praise God instead of cursing those made in His image. Now is the time to purify ourselves and ask God for grace to guard our tongues; that we may use it to bless, edify, encourage & admonish with love. In Jesus Name Amen!



# All Things Through Christ

Self Reliance, the term itself has several points that would make a true believer cringe, for unlike the command of Christ which is to depend on Him; self reliance asks each person to depend and empower self. Sadly, this idealism is rampant even among believers. The definition of such a mindset is as follows; it is defined as reliance or confidence in ones own abilities, decisions, capability or prowess. This singular mindset could be termed in Ancient Greek “Hubris” the idealism that we can do anything by the toil of our hands and sweat of our brow. The mindset that states; I don’t need God- I’m good. I’ll figure it out myself. I can do anything if I put my mind on it. This thought pattern has been the bane of many and the reason of man’s fall. Because even in difficulty; we would rather praise our strength, rely on ourselves than seek our King. Yet, there is a simple message that God desires for us to understand: that all can be achieved by His strength alone. This assurance resounds into every fiber of our being. In **Philippians 4:13**, we see Paul stating one of the most loved verses in the faith; *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* Many Christians keep on claiming it for themselves yet they set aside the requirement that has to be given before we can say this in our hearts. A renewal of ones mind does not only affect our speech and the words we think; but it should also change our attitude, characteristic and reduce or obliterate even the thoughts that are unholy and impure. **Philippians 4:8** states: *“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things”* Why do we need to dwell on such things, because this is our guideline in order that we can withstand the difficulty that we have to face. Each day, new trials come our way; Every church planter, pastor, leader or shepherd has faced diffi-

culty in planting a ministry one way or another. To a point that when you lovingly rebuke, you are misconstrued; you pour your heart and tell each person your failings yet they continue falling anyway. To a point that the same people you worked so hard to help are the ones who tear you down & persecute you.

Yet a true minister continues, why? for the pain we feel, we experience is but momentary. Our minds are anchored on what is lovely. The trials we experience will only be for a moment; but the joy of seeing a soul saved, of seeing a family completed in the house of the Lord; the expectancy of facing our King knowing fully well that you stood faithful. The statement I can do all things is only applicable to people who changed their mindset and recalibrated their Christianity to focus on what is right, pure, just and trustworthy. We cannot claim: I can do all things through Christ; if Christ does not live in you; is not evident in your walk. That your reaction screams out worldly instead of exuding the light of Christ. This applies to those who choose to intentionally exude the light of Christ since they are New Creations by the grace of our King. Thus friends, now is the time to shake off the ideals of self reliance and depend on our King alone. It is time that we continue to hunger for God's word, living out each command set by our King; we will see the promise set forth by our God; that though troubles arise; **Romans 8:37** states - *“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”*

My prayer as we press on is that we may stand to sanctify our hearts and focus on God. Shake away any form of self reliance or doubt and stand by faith as we change our hearts and minds; focus on what is excellent and pure as we shine His light knowing fully well that as we obey; we can accomplish all things through Christ who strengthens us; In Jesus name amen!



# Keep Your Emotions In Check

Have you ever heard the term: A flood of emotion? This specific term gives us an image of an overflow of water; in this case emotions that destroys everything in its path. A flood is a catastrophe that we ourselves have dealt with from time to time, and no matter how many times we deal with such a calamity; the pain of what we dealt with before echoes in our hearts. Yet many of us don't realize that we hold a bigger danger than a flood of water, for we hold the key to the floodgates of our own emotion. The notion I would like for us to understand is the overwhelming power of ones emotions being released into the fray. Like an angry flood, it washes away hopes, dreams, it destroys people and whatever they held unto to keep them stable and its weakens or even breaks relationships that have been built through time, strengthened by a bond that should be unbreakable. An emotional flood comes from overwhelming pain and the weakness not to be able to control ones emotions at the advent of difficult situations or circumstances that are emotionally taxing. When we loose control, when we just let our emotions flow, forgetting how many people can we hurt, forgetting what repercussions it can cause since our focus at this time is only self, no one else, just us. It might feel good initially, our emotions gratified from the release but as time passes, how can we live with the fact that we tore down people, we burnt bridges, destroyed relationship all because we desired gratification. God teaches us through the words of Solomon; a simple saying that allows us to see what God desires at the event when our emotion run wild. **Proverbs 12:16** states - *“A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.”* We see the reactions of both people at the hint of annoyance, at the advent of a problematic circumstance or to some translation is says vexation. The foolish man is annoyed rather quickly, letting his emotion run loose and not think-

ing who takes the brunt of his emotion. The prudent, the wise, the sensible person overlooked the insult, stayed calm at the midst of it all. Understand that a foolish man is soon angry, and is hasty in expressing it; he is ever in trouble and running into mischief. While the prudent stands calm.

It is kindness to ourselves to make light of injuries, stop thinking of how much it hurt you and ask God for comfort, for wisdom, for discernment that we can take a look at situation and keep calm as we steady ourselves on God. The secret of the prudent man did not lie on his own strength, but on the strength of our King. The prudent stood righteous, not allowing circumstance to move him to sin or hurt; in fact he simply overlooked the wrongs, why? because he trusted that God would handle whatever wrong that comes his way. Don't let your emotions get the better of you, don't even think that you can never master them, yes by our strength we cannot but by the strength of our King yes we can. Let God's word be the brick, the wall that keep our emotion in check, our prayer as the mortar that keeps the bricks steady and fixed; finally our focus. Guide it to be the control lever that allows trickles of your emotions to flow out as you filter it with self control and channel those emotion to something praise worthy. **Proverbs 29:11** states- *"A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control."* Self control is the key in order to guard our emotions, be a rarity and exude the goodness of Christ in every aspect of our lives.

Friend, Becoming a New Creation means that we are purged from our old selves, our old mentality. It means that we are renewed through Christ, it means we desire change in our lives as we continue the path through sanctification. It's not a walk in the park, it will be difficult but regardless of trials we intentionally choose to confess and profess Christ in our walk. Today I implore you, seek to exude Christ by keeping our emotions in check, guard our hearts and in all we do, in Jesus Name Amen!



# Loyalty Has No Expiration

I first came upon this statement on a plane to the US, inscribed on a napkin. I started to ponder on the meaning of such a simple term and as a year has gone by when we have seen the faithful stand up, the focus grow in the Lord, the faithless depart and those with divided hearts fall. It came to me that true Christianity exudes absolute loyalty, not turning nor swaying. Loyalty has a precise definition, one that we need to take to heart if we desire to better ourselves and see breakthrough; loyalty is defined as: giving or showing firm and constant support of allegiance for an individual, a group, cause or idea. It displays a strong commitment that is unshakable and adheres with devotion. The term fealty comes to mind, a sign of loyalty, a vow that does not break unless released. Loyalty means taking oneself out of the equations, erasing ego, emotions, feelings and so on in order to stand for the greater good, in order to intentionally shine Love, in order to stand focused on God. Loyalty means trust, a quality that is severely lacking in this day and age, yet all the more needed. ***Ezekiel 14:3*** states- *“Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all?”* These men have set up their idols in their heart - Not only in their houses; in the streets; but they had them in their hearts. These were stumbling-blocks of iniquity; they fell over them, and broke the neck of their souls. and yet they keep on thinking that God will answer their cry, after such an act of disloyalty, after dishonoring the faith. Most of the time, we think- I’m not like these disobedient, stiff necked Israelites but we are friends. By not putting God first, we have already set idols, by putting need, want, occasion or anything, anyone before God- we have already fell into idolatry; what more we have created our own stumbling block since our unfaithfulness, our disloyalty has made us a target for the anger of the Lord to

burn on us. **Ezekiel 14:4** states: *“Therefore speak to them and tell them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When any Israelite sets up idols in his heart and puts a wicked stumbling block before his face and then goes to a prophet, I the LORD will answer him myself in keeping with his great idolatry.’”*

The offshoot of idolatrous behavior, a heart unturned to God and turned to ourselves, turned to the world is upon inquiry to the King we will be dealt with as idolaters. The Lord is stating here that since you filled your heart with lies, bowed down to lies instead of worshipping truth; you will be led by lies. **2 Thess 2:10** states: *“and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.”* Since it is abomination that they worshipped so shall they be led by what is abominable, what is unholy and false. **Ezekiel 14:5** states: *“I will do this to capture the minds and hearts of all my people who have turned from me to worship their detestable idols.”* Understand that anything that steals our time away from God is an idol, when we fall into this we are estranged to God & alienated from Him. No outward form or reformation can be acceptable to God, so long as any idol possesses our hearts. Let us not allow anything to come between us and our King nor allow idols to rule our hearts especially ourselves. Stand loyal to God. Let us purify our hearts and minds, confess to one another where we have failed and accept that we are susceptible to sin, we are problematic at best and we need Christ above all else.

Friend, My prayer is that we may stand as believers who are not over-sensitive nor fall to the wiles of the enemy or our own imagination which leads to us stumbling forth from where we should be. It is time to seek our King and focus on Him alone, as He is faithful so should we be; for God did not think twice to give us His all; so why should we? I call unto you today to be faithful to our King in season and out of season; to never wane nor weaken, but be steady on Him alone as we exude a loyalty like none other. In Jesus Name Amen!



# Do Not Harden Your Hearts

**Hebrews 3:13** states - *"13 But instead warn (admonish, urge, and encourage) one another every day, as long as it is called Today, that none of you may be hardened [into settled rebellion] by the deceitfulness of sin [by the fraudulence, the stratagem, the trickery which the delusive glamor of his sin may play on him]."*

There is a great call in our life not only to live a life that is praise worthy, holy and pleasing to the most High but also to admonish, urge and encourage the brethren lest they be hardened of heart. This is the folly of many believers; a hardened heart- in some note it can be stated as stubborn or stiff necked. Scripture states that once we trust in the Lord; He shall replace our heart of stone with a heart of flesh. A hardened heart thinks more on what a person felt, the hurt they must have experienced upon rebuke; to a point that they don't see what they ought to change for their eyes can only perceive the ego that has been toppled over, the pride that was shaken. Most Christian tend to think much of reputation and feeling good instead of doing good and crucifying reputation, letting it go in exchange for the Glory of Christ Jesus in whom no pain can be felt but enthusiasm to change ones ways to become better. Sin is fraudulent and deceiving. Packaged well for Immediate consumption; to a point that it could seem valid. That is the pitfall. Unless there is a renewal of ones mind, we cannot ascertain if we have fallen into sin's deceiving embrace or not. Understand that there is no shame is asking for forgiveness and confessing wrong for God sees our heart and what has transpired. Think not what we should feel, nor what other people think of us; don't be focused on repute for this is unprofitable and is riddled with danger to our faith but seek only to please our King by humility, obedience and a tender heart that is willing to accept rebuke or admonishment; not defending nor justifying for this is not for us to do

but for our King who stands as both our audience and our avenger. In this we would be viewed as Christians of good repute, for the key of a true believer, one who has an evident faith walk is a person who willingly changes to better themselves through Christ.

Friend, How Changed our we? Know that a when we state that we are changed, we can accept the fact that truth needs to be complete in us, that we ought to be molded according to the purpose of God no matter how painful it might be. How many of us are willing to be molded by the hands of the potter; willingly letting go of what we know and seeking a more perfect way through Christ? My prayer is that we may stand as New Creations, not just in statement but in our character, In Jesus name amen!



# How Rebellious Are You?

The Word rebellion is not used lightly. Samuel told King Saul that rebellion was like the sin of witchcraft. This means that Rebellion is tantamount to communing with the devil. Rebelling against God's will is like dabbling in the occult in that it will give Satan room in your life. Whenever there is declaration of God's Word there is both acceptance and rejection. Even the best preachers experience this. Even Christ experienced the joy of people responding positively to His Divine message and those who simply rejected it. In fact, a far more negative response than simple rejection is when folks actually attack the message and the messenger. Time and time again, we who have read the word of God and meditated on the truth of the Bible have been witnesses to the stubborn, stiff-necked, hardened hearts of the Israelites and the rebellious attitude that they always exuded. In ***Jeremiah 8:9-11*** and ***Ezekiel 8:6-14***; we see the dangers of rebellion and how it displeases our King. Even in one of the most popular parables entitled: The Prodigal Son which can be found in Luke 15 paints the picture of the corrupt, vile heart of man which leans to rebellion and the love our Father has for us and the grace He grants us all. Yet, do not misconstrue biblical truth. Though God's grace is sufficient, rebellion in the form of disruptive, uncalled for retort and incessant sinning destroys our fellowship with the King. A person who is in the state of rebellion towards God is in the most dangerous situation they could be in because God will not and cannot save a rebellious person. ***Ezekiel 8:18***-*"Therefore, I will respond in fury. I will neither pity nor spare them. And though they cry for mercy, I will not listen."* Thus giving up your rebellion will get you out of your troubles. If you've got a mess in your life, there's a good chance you haven't been doing what God's been telling you to do. However, if you will start making right choices, God will give you the ability to get through it

and things will turn around for you. God withholds blessings from the rebellious for their own good – if He blesses disobedience, it will breed more disobedience. Rebellion, and the disobedience it causes, keeps us from having the power of God that’s available to us as Christians.

We need to know what rebellion is to really understand why it’s so dangerous. Rebellion is not just outward behavior but it’s an attitude problem and a heart issue. It resists authority, is likened to witchcraft in the Bible (*see 1 Samuel 15:23*), makes us unprofitable (*see Hebrews 13:17*), and brings judgment upon us (*see Romans 13:1,2*). But the good news is, we don’t have to live this way. God can heal and change your heart to be submissive to His authority, as well as the people in authority over you that He puts in your life. There’s a popular scripture that says, “Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart” (*Psalm 37:4 NIV*). The word delight means “to be pliable and moldable in God’s hand.” So if you will be pliable in His hands, allows God to mold your heart, and do with you, in you and through you what He wants to do, then He will give you the desires of your heart. Anything God asks you to do is for your benefit. He always has your best interest at heart. And He’ll never ask you to do something without also giving you the ability to do it. We just need to spend a lot of time with Him, learn to trust Him completely, and submit our will to Him alone.

My prayer is that today we may seek to check our hearts for any hint of rebellion in our spirit. If we react violently, stand on the defensive, shut down each time we are corrected or admonished? We should stand to effectively prune our thoughts and character of anything that displeases our God. May it be to us a realignment, a moment to reflect on the things we ought to change. Stand teachable and welcome rebuke for through this abrasion will we be purified for God’s service. In Jesus Christ Name Amen!



# Are You Quick To Defend Yourself

Examine our ways and test them, such a suggestion and one stated with such urgency. At first, many of us would state- that is a good ideal but as we undertake this endeavor; we start learning the painful process of cleansing; the painful passage of purifying oneself for God. To a point that the fervor, the zeal to check and test our ways start to fade and the strength to humble ourselves get diverted to defensive measures, justifications, reasons and statement that point others in the wrong instead of us being the only people to blame. The question the is: Are You Quick To Defend Yourself? Does your reaction go ahead of you? Do you shut-down initially in hopes to block the queries, block the questions, the discussions? okay in God one minute, malayo kay God the next? That instead of being in the corner, reading the Bible, praying for guidance, for wisdom for strength; React! React! React! Instead of owning up the mistake, accepting the wrong and changing from there, we go defensive; we justify; looking for loop holes in the word usage since the idea of being cornered to submission is just too painful to fathom. When that does not work, we point to the mistakes of others. The common viewpoint here is that those who frequently go on the defensive are also the first ones to correct the mistake of others in order to hide their own. This self righteous attitude is folly since we cannot play God nor can we be Holy Spirit Jr. Before we could point to others, check their mistakes; let us take a moment to check our own. Stop defending and start examining. **Luke 6:27** states - *“How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”* Being Defensive is a state of mind where we never see the wrongs we do, we only see the lack of things, of needs, of wants in our lives;

and the wrong other people do. There is always justification, always a reason-never owning up but always pointing. It is a self centered idealism that is tantamount to insurrection or a refusal of obedience. Blatant rebellion for we do not obey and change, nor do we own up to the mistake; instead we thrive in the wrong and defend our choice, that or leave

If this is you, stop thinking like this and start owning up to your christianity. It's not a trade off, we'll change if they change. No, your walk, your family's walk is your dealing with the most High; stop looking at others and desire to live right, live true for your faith is your own. Stop being so defensive, instead be willing to be tested, be examined; be hard on yourself, on your family that when you face the brethren, when you face our King, you already corrected what has to be changed. ***Lamentations 3:40*** states - *"Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD."* Examination, testing these are not walk in the park events, these are difficult to pass through, difficult to push through yet honesty and truth has always been difficult to swallow. This outcry of Jeremiah calls the people to return to God as quelling the root of evil in our lives and bringing all we are to righteousness. Seeking to become blameless, standing right with God; not as a passport for abundance but a fervent desire to be in His presence. Be intentional in change, intentional in dismantling the defensive wall we have built in the past instead build a bridge to the truth of our King that will convict us to repentance and move us to righteousness.

Friend, We go to church not to cry out for our needs but to ask God what He desires for us to do for His glory! Not to stand emotional but stand intentional; are we all willing to stand by one another as we face a new dawn in our walk? Our outcry should be: "Examine my heart oh Lord, remove all that is standing in the way of my sanctification; humble me my King, grant me a teachable heart; that I might stand righteous in Your sight thus changing the atmosphere as I confess Your name through my life." In Jesus Christ Name Amen!



# Test The Spirit

Have you ever heard of the statement: Test The Waters? Basically this is a widely used idiom that means to try something new, to sample something carefully. This is based on the literal meaning of test the waters (to put your toe into water to see how cold it is.) Now it isn't enough to test and check but more so to listen to wisdom, ascertain if what we are about to do is correct, is safe; will it benefit people more or will it cause problems? Is it for the better or the worse; unless we test and try something, examine it thoroughly we might just blindly jump in, not knowing what it is that we undertook; only that the idea seemed well and good initially. In a world filled with deceit, even inside the church we are susceptible to the lying schemes of the enemy and as such we are exhorted to test everything. In ***1 Thessalonians 5:21-22*** it states - *“Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.”* Paul in this verse is calling out to the believers of Thessalonica to be wary and prove everything submitted to them to believe to the proper test. The greek term used here is *Dokimazete* which refers to the arts of the assayers, an ancient craft skill to test the true nature and value of metal. This coincides with the words of Paul to the Corinthians in ***1 Corinthians 3:13*** that states: *“But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value.”* This trial was usually made by fire. The meaning here is, that they were careful to examine everything proposed for their belief. They were not to receive it on trust; to take it on assertion; to believe it because it was urged with zeal, feeling and conviction. In the various opinions and doctrines which were submitted to them for adoption, they were to apply the appropriate tests from reason and the word of God, and what they found to be true they were to embrace; what was false they were to reject. The same I ask of you, to hold fast only to what is

true, never be shaken in faith by what circumstance you are in, the failings of the people around you nor the weakness that is innate in all of us; but hold fast to the truth, hold fast to what is good, what is righteous. We must search the Scriptures. Proving all things as we hold fast to what is good. We should abstain from sin, and whatever looks like sin.

**1 John 4:1** states - *“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”* Check whether the verse, the message you are listening to is indeed biblically sound. Check the spirit of the people posting for not all who post are there to share the faith, but to use the scriptures to tear down and divide rather than to strengthen, edify and admonish. Know that many who state falsehood have gone out into the world thus we need to start checking for counterfeits; while only approving the genuine article. You don't need counterfeit Christianity, class A, B, C- whatever does not rebuke you; because it might gratify you initially but it won't help you in the end. Go genuine; Go for the truth. False teachers speak to the world according to its tastes, so as not to offend carnal men. The world approved them, they made rapid progress, and had many followers such as themselves; the world will love its own. The truth of Christ is leading men & women from the world back to the truth of God, The mark of a true teacher, a true believer is the conviction for the spirit of truth standing in direct opposition to the spirit of error, to the spirit of licentiousness, thus suffering for the right.

Friends, I implore you to test everything. Learn God's word and meditate on it that you may ascertain what is right and true, do not go plunging about in whatever doctrine you may hear; but test it. Check everything; be wary of all things; proving what stands right and true and upon proving the right; embracing its precepts while rejecting what is false. Let us not fall but stand unshakable in the truth of Christ as we desire to change our ways, by confessing what is true, only what is genuine, what is righteous; confessing only Christ. In Jesus Name Amen!



# Rejoice in the Lord Despite Circumstance

**Habakkuk 3:17-18** – *17 Though the fig tree does not blossom and there is no fruit on the vines, [though] the product of the olive fails and the fields yield no food, though the flock is cut off from the fold and there are no cattle in the stalls, 18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the [victorious] God of my salvation!*

There is a question that prods the heart that every believer should ask themselves: Can we honestly state that despite of circumstance, no matter what we lack, no matter if our dreams come to fruition or that our breakthrough is evident; can we state that we will rejoice in God. The common answer is yes, of course; but if faced with a difficult situation; can you proclaim that the Lord is good and your joy is in His salvation? The common understanding of many professing Christians is God will provide but can you state that our faith is not tied with the blessings we receive, the gifts we hope for. True believers understand that though troubles arise, though supplies lack, though needs are unmet and wants are set aside; our joy is not tied to these things. Our faith is not chained to the gift for our true reward is the Giver. Many have fallen into the viewpoint that the reward of faith is the glittering prospects of this world but understand that nothing on earth can be our reward for faith. Yes it might be that we are blessed in abundance to supply our needs, our wants and become a blessing to others but material and monetary possessions are not the true reward of a Believer. The true reward is the presence of God who dwells in us, strengthening us through difficulty, guiding us to righteousness, never leaving us nor forsaking us. Our true reward is glory when we face our King and all tears from our eyes have been wiped away. That is our true reward. For know this, nothing made in this world nor created by human hands can bring true joy that is lasting in our hearts. No abundance can fill us with peace and con-

tentment if God does not dwell in us. Thus this is how we are tested, especially when what we have hoped for seems bleak, when troubles seem to drain us of our hopes- can we transcend what we feel, change our mindset and recalibrate our Christianity? This should be our prayer.

Dear Friend, how much do we trust Jesus? How strong is our faith? Understand that it is easy to profess our faith when all is going well. The true test is to trust in the Lord and rejoice in Him despite the circumstances we face. Though problems may arise, though our fears seem to turn to solid reality; I hope is in the Lord and we will not be shaken but despite it all- We will rejoice. Be of good cheer and focus on God dear Saint and keep looking up; In Jesus name amen!



# Be Ambitious in Your Contentment

Luke 12:15 states, *“Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”*

We lack this day a simple yet forgotten virtue. It is the rarest characteristic that one can exude in this age of consumerism, this era that capitalism has taken hold, when people live for excess as smart marketing dictate our need and want - contentment. This term is defined as a feeling or showing of satisfaction with one's possessions, status, or situation. Its manifestation is a steadiness of character, one not easily swayed by trends nor fads but satisfied with what he has, yet delighted and thankful upon being blessed with more. Sadly, many of us do not exude contentment but the opposite of it which is greed. Unlike the popular note, ambition is not the opposite of contentment for ambition is defined as an ardent desire to achieve a particular end, though its positive definition depends on the motivation of such desire. A person can be ambitious as he is also content. You can have peace and contentment and at the same time reach your goals—be a prime mover, be a go getter and make things happen. They're not inconsistent concepts. The issue here is that problems are created when ambitious people are driven by a lack of contentment.

In Luke 12, we see Jesus denouncing covetousness starting in verse 13 with a request posed by a person in the crowd to tell his brother to divide the family inheritance with him. Jesus answered and said- who made me an arbiter among you; and then Jesus utters a simple yet profound warning; a warning that is widely relevant to this day. In Verse 15, it states, “Then he said to them, ‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abun-

dance of his possessions.'" Greed is a sin we ought to be warned off moment by moment, it is the knife and the scars run deep. All are susceptible to it without even knowing that they have fallen to its sweet but destructive clutches. It starts with small desires, small temptations that you start giving in on. Soon enough you start desiring bigger better things, to a point that the once small desire before is now the focal point of your existence, thus the old adage goes, "the more you acquire, the more you desire."

Contentment at this moment is non-existent and ambition is now motivated by greed. Soon enough what you cannot attain, you lust over. You then become a slave to possession, as what you possess now possesses you. The items that started as desires have now become the god of our lives. This could range from clothes, toys, gadgets, watches, shoes, bags, cars, and houses. When our ambition is the attainment of these things for the sole purpose of quenching our thirst for excess; be alarmed. For no matter how many of these things you have, it will not give you joy, nor peace, love nor hope. **Psalm 119:36** states, "*Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.*" God puts His Spirit within us, causing us to walk in His statutes. The sin here prayed against is covetousness. Those that would have the love of God rooted in them, must get the love of the world rooted out; for the friendship of the world is enmity with God. The Bible clearly states that we ought to check our hearts, be content with what we have and focus on His word, on His truth not on what to buy next. The Bible calls us to be content with what we have, Ambitious with the call set forth by our God; standing intentional to please our King.

Friends, today I ask you how ambitious are you in your contentment? How content are we with what the Father has blessed us with? How ambitious are we in the faith, in purity, in holiness? As we begin the year, may we stand delivered from the poisonous clutches of greed as we recalibrate our Christianity and stand content with what we have, yet turning our hearts to the truth of our King. May it be our fervent desire to attain holiness as we surrender each thing that exalts itself before our God and lay them captive into obedience to Christ as we stand freed from the bondage of our acquisitions. In Jesus Name Amen!



# To Please Our King

Each year, it has been a solid tradition throughout the world to make resolutions, these resolutions vary. Some may resolve to lose weight while others may want to gain weight. There are some who desire to work out daily and there are some who resolved to lessen the pace of their already too busy lifestyle. Resolutions have always been set to fix old habits, augment one's lifestyle and make life easier, pleasant as we choose to live it out to the fullest. There is one resolution that if stood upon, will, in each respect, accomplish every resolution you'd like to accomplish from past to present and that if focused upon would unlock blessing for you - a full life in every degree as peace, joy, steadiness and contentment would fill your life, encompassed with love, guided by truth and empowered by God's grace. The master resolution is to please our King. ***Galatians 1:10 states,*** "*Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.*" We see Paul admonishing the Galatians who had among them people who readily followed a perverse form of the gospel, a distortion to the truth and those who preached the gospel yet omitting parts to please the itching ears of the masses or to draw away their fury since the truth hurts. Paul was speaking to the masses who desired not to reform their ways but seek blessing at every turn, he was speaking to the preachers and pastors who would say what people wanted to hear instead of the truth they needed to hear. These two groups fell into the category of pleasing men instead of seeking the approval of God which should be the only thing a true believer seeks. A Sincere Christian will not please people. It is not what they love. A holy, humble, spiritual life the world does not love. It is true, indeed, that their consciences tell them that such a life is right; that they are often constrained to speak well of the life of Christians, and to commend it; it is true that they are constrained to respect a person who is a sincere Christian, and that they often put confidence in such a person; and it is true also

that they often speak with respect of them when they are dead; but the life of a humble, devoted, and zealous Christian they do not love. It is contrary to their views of life. And especially if a Christian so lives and acts as to reprove them either by his words or by his life; or if a Christian makes his relationship so prominent as to interfere with their pursuits or pleasures, they do not love it. A true Christian seeks only to please the King and no other, for if we turn to please men, we were never true believers in the first place for our service is mixed and dabbled, instead of singular and true. Benjamin Franklin once stated, “How many observe Christ’s birthday! How few, His precepts!” a timely quotation to this season we celebrate, yet marvel not on its timeliness but in its truth. How many would utter “Merry Christmas” yet disdain the commands of Christ, how many utter “Happy New Year” yet all that is new in their life is the year, obedience is key. It was the lack of obedience that pushed Adam and Eve out of Eden, it was their disobedience that doomed us all to die but it is the obedience of Christ to the will of the Father, to our written redemption that we were saved. Understand that Adam who was blessed with all and everything yet chose at the very moment he was offered the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil to seek the approval of the only other person in the garden- Eve, instead of seeking the approval of God by obeying His command. Our obedience to God’s word, our trying hard effort to obey It is perfected by His grace and tuned by His truth; for to please our King we ought not only to hear the word but to keep it. **Luke 11:28** states “*But he said, ‘Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!’*” Pleasing our King asks us to be right with the King, and as such His commandments ought to be obeyed if we claim fealty to our God and true love for Him alone.

Friends, my prayer is that we recalibrate our Christianity, seeking to please our King with all we are, all we do and all we are striving to accomplish that each aspect of our existence and each thought that we have lay captive into obedience to Christ; that our lives emanate righteousness and truth as we desire to change the atmosphere by truly confessing Christ in our walk, standing as New Creations, intentional for what is right, irrevocable for what is true in Jesus Name Amen!